

# The Library Assistant :

*The Official Journal of the Association of Assistant Librarians.*

No. 293.

FEBRUARY, 1923.

Published Monthly

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## ANNOUNCEMENT.

The February meeting of the London Division will be held on 21st February, at 7.30 p.m., at the Islington Central Library, Holloway Road, N.7, through the kindness of Mr. W. J. Harris, F.L.A., the Chief Librarian. Light refreshments will be provided.

The chair will be taken by Mr. Harris, and a paper will be given by Mr. Harry Cross, F.L.A., of Croydon, on "Publicity: Policy and Practice."

The Junior section will meet at 7 p.m., and Mr. F. T. Bussey, of Hackney, will speak on "The Junior Assistant."

The Council hopes that there will be a good attendance at both meetings.

The March meeting will be held at Bethnal Green on 14th March. Mr. F. J. Bussey, of Hackney, will read a paper on "Developments and Tendencies in Current Library Practice."

## EDITORIAL.

**This Journal.**—With a view to meeting the regrettable situation caused through the "Library Association Record's" disappearance as a monthly, negotiations are in progress with a view to enlarging the size of *The Library Assistant* as from April. It is confidently hoped that these negotiations will be successful, and in the meantime may we urge all librarians and assistant librarians

to support us in our endeavour to provide a larger and more useful journal than we have in mind. Librarians may subscribe for eight shillings per annum (post free), and the highest rate of subscription for assistant librarians is the same, which entitles one to the Journal and all benefits of the Association. Remember, *The Library Assistant* is the cheapest professional journal in this country, probably enters more libraries than any other, and is now the only official monthly journal.

We have received letters from several readers deploring the disappearance of the L.A.R. as a monthly, and asking whether arrangements cannot be made for making our Journal the medium for urgent announcements, particularly those of an educational nature. So far as space permits, we shall be happy to undertake this duty, and to place our columns at the disposal of the profession.

**Two Important Lectures.**—On Wednesday, 14th February, at 5.30 p.m., Mr. Geo. A. Stephen, the expert authority on library bookbinding, will deliver a public lecture at University College, London, on "Modern Machine Binding." As this is a subject which interests us so deeply just now, it is hoped that many of our readers will take advantage of the opportunity now offered. On the same evening at 8.30 p.m. Prof. A. E. Richardson will deliver an address on "Library Architecture." Admission to the last mentioned is free to all who notify their intention of being present.

**The Late Mr. T. W. Lyster.**—It is with very great regret that we record the death on 15th December of Mr. T. W. Lyster at the age of 67. Mr. Lyster was for many years the librarian of the National Library of Ireland, and took a keen interest in everything pertaining to his profession, especially the welfare of the assistants under his charge. *The Times* is quite correct when it says that "In his relations with the public and the staff of the library he always maintained that charm of manner which endeared him to all who knew him."

**The Projected London Branch of the Library Association.**—A meeting of all those engaged or interested in public, institutional or private libraries in the area of London and the Home Counties (Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Herts, Essex and Middlesex) will be held at the Central Library for Students, 9, Galen Place, W.C.1, on Wednesday, 28th February.

The chief purpose of the meeting is to consider the advisability of applying to the Library Association for the formation

of a London and Home Counties Branch. It is unnecessary to stress the vital importance and urgent need for creating some distinct organisation of all connected with libraries within the radius named, for greater unity of fellowship and action in promoting ideals for which all sincere and serious librarians and library assistants are striving. Other matters of immediate importance and interest to London librarianship will also be discussed. *The Conference, and the purpose for which it is convened, is not confined to the present members of the Library Association or the Association of Assistant Librarians.* Anyone who desires to be present is invited and will be welcome. It is the duty and interest of everyone engaged in librarianship, within the district concerned, to make every effort to be present if he or she possibly can, and to give the meeting the benefit of any ideas, wishes or views. *We earnestly hope that all our members, as well as those who are not yet in membership, will attend in full strength.*

It is proposed to make the gathering a whole-day Conference.

#### MORNING SESSION 11 A.M. TILL 1 OR 1.30.

To consider as to the importance of the Library Association applying for a hearing before the Royal Commission on London Government, to put forward evidence and recommendations, or alternatively for permission to submit a report.

In this connection it will be open to discussion whether such separate action for the Metropolitan and surrounding area is the best course, or whether effort should be made to secure the appointment of a Government committee to enquire into the library service of the country as a whole.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION 2.30.

(a) Continuation of the morning's subject (if not concluded).

(b) To consider as to the desirability, or not, of applying to the Council of the Library Association for the formation of a London and Home Counties Branch.

**The N.W. Division.**—We have received news of excellent work in the provinces during the past month. The North-Western Division is to be congratulated upon the excellent circular prepared, primarily in connection with the annual meeting, which is to be held in Manchester on February 7th. In it are set forth the advantages accruing from membership of the A.A.L., especially facilities for students who are preparing for the professional

examinations. The Division is, we believe, the first to provide free training by correspondence for assistants within the area covered by the Division.

We congratulate the Division on its enthusiasm, and commend to the attention of all within reach of Manchester, the important meeting which the Division is holding there on Wednesday, 7th February.

If any library worker desires further particulars of the meeting, Mr. E. C. Wickens, Reference Library, Liverpool, will be happy to send them. The addresses and papers are:—

"The differing work of Commercial and Technical Libraries and their development," by Mr. L. Stanley Jast.

"The special work among young people in the Manchester Public Libraries," by Mr. J. W. Idle, Librarian, Crumpsall District Library.

"National professional problems and their relation to Assistants," by Mr. E. C. Wickens, President, Association of Assistant Librarians; Hon. Secretary, North Western Division.

**Next Council Meeting.**—The next meeting of the Council will be held at the National Library for the Blind on Wednesday, 14th February, at 7 p.m.

**The Easter Excursion.**—Sufficient names have been received to make the Easter Excursion to Paris possible, and any of our readers who would like to join are asked to notify Mr. Sayers during the present month, and to forward with their applications a deposit of ten shillings. It is proposed to leave London on Thursday evening, 29th March, and to be back in London on Tuesday morning, 3rd April. One day will be given up to visiting the Bibliothèque Nationale, the Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal and the American Library; the remaining three days will be spent in seeing Paris. The cost of the excursion is seven guineas per head. May we specially commend this opportunity to our younger readers as a means of broadening their horizon by coming into contact with people of kindred interests, though of several nationalities. Speaking for ourselves, we look back on the last Paris Easter School as the best investment we ever made. We are convinced that it may be an equally profitable investment for our younger colleagues.

**Whitsuntide Conference.**—The Council hopes to arrange a Conference during the Whitsuntide Holiday at some centre convenient to all. The idea underlying the plan is to get all who

are interested, together in a hostel or similar institution, and to have a session of papers and meetings upon the most vital phases of interest to the profession. The Council welcome all ideas and proposals and would be glad to hear of suitable centres.

**Library Association Examinations.**—Students intending to take the Examinations in May must apply for a form of entry before the 14th February, as no entries can be received after that date. Forms may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Westminster Public Library, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1.

The Special Period set for Section 1, Literary History, is 1850-1870.

The Section Examinations will be at 10 a.m. on each day from Monday, 7th May, until Saturday, 12th May, the Preliminary Test being taken on Wednesday afternoon, the 9th May. The Elementary Examination will be on Monday, 14th May, beginning at 9.30 a.m.

The titles set for the essays are as follows :—

**Section 1. Literary History.**—"The rise and decline of pamphlet literature with special reference to the 18th century."

**Section 2. Bibliography.**—"An annotated list of aids to book selection published since 1900."

**Section 3. Classification.**—"A critical examination of the arrangement of history and geography in the Dewey decimal and Subject classifications."

**Section 4. Cataloguing.**—"A descriptive and critical review from the cataloguing standpoint of the 'Subject Index to Periodicals.'"

**Section 5. Library Organisation.**—"In organising public libraries on the open-access system, there are obvious advantages and disadvantages to be recognised. Discuss the nature and relative importance of the disadvantages, suggesting methods, if any, for their modification or removal."

**Section 6. Library Routine.**—"Prepare a report for a Library Committee on binding and repairing arrangements, internal and external, for a library system of one central and three branch institutions, including a complete specification for contract work."

**A Considerate Committee.**—Ever since the opening of the Hackney Public Libraries, the Lending Departments have been closed on Tuesdays, thus allowing only a small part of the staff to attend the meetings of professional associations, etc. A memorial, signed by every member of the staff, and supported by the Chief Librarian, was presented to the Libraries Committee at their last meeting, asking them to consider the changing of the closing day to Wednesday, in order that the staff could avail themselves of the educational facilities and attend the meetings of their professional association held on that day.

We are pleased to record that the Committee favourably considered the memorial, and that the Borough Council agreed to their recommendation that the desired change should come into force in May.

## \*THE PROBLEM OF THE ADOLESCENT.

By WM. B. THORNE, F.L.A.

To avoid misunderstanding, it always seems to me useful to commence by attempting a definition of terms : by this means the reader of the paper makes clear as far as lays in him what he is driving at, and there is the possibility that the audience suffers less from confusion of mind. "The Problem of the Adolescent" —the term adolescent is disposed of fairly easily : the dictionary definition is—"Growing up; advancing from childhood to manhood or womanhood, extending in man from about 14-25, and in woman from 12-21." This is all pretty straightforward and may be expressed for our present purpose as "the school-leaving age." A statement of *the problem*, however, is not so simple. Primarily, I suppose our anxiety is to ensure that the library habit which we are trying to promote amongst the children shall not be broken; also that we shall attract to the libraries those who have not hitherto come under the spell of books and reading. That, perhaps, will serve for the moment as a bare statement, though it errs on the side of understatement.

I have no figures to offer, but there is not much doubt that a considerable proportion of the children to whom tickets are issued whilst they are at school fail to continue the use of the libraries the moment they leave to enter the world of work. Many are under the impression that leaving school automatically breaks their connection with the library, and have insufficient enthusiasm to induce them to seek the adult side of the service. Others, of course, have never become genuine readers at all, having simply borrowed occasional books because their companions have been doing so. We are more and more realising that some machinery is desirable to prevent this wastage, and various schemes are being employed with that object in view, and we will consider these before proceeding farther.

It may be safely assumed, I think, that all libraries now cater for the juvenile reader. There may be differences in the age limits enforced, but, generally speaking, children are recognised as part of a library's ordinary clientèle at the present time. In some places the provision is much more liberal than in others, and I think the day has arrived when it ought to be commonly understood that a properly equipped and adequately staffed separate juvenile department should form an indispensable part of every library system. When this has been done we shall have gone a long way towards solving the problem before us to-night. I want

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\* Read at the Monthly Meeting, 17th January, 1923.

to emphasize the proviso that a junior library should be properly equipped and adequately staffed, being whole-heartedly in agreement with Mr. Jast's dictum that the true object of such a library is to produce *readers*, not merely to provide shelter in inclement weather or entertainment as an alternative to the streets. While we must not refuse to supply either of these needs, we shall be grossly underestimating our duties if we are content to rest there. All the time we must be striving by every means within our power to promote *the book idea*, not simply indulgence in reading as an escape from boredom or even as a pleasurable pastime; our highest aim, it seems to me, should be to inspire children with the thought that in books true wisdom may be found, and that there is the place of understanding; in short, we should be out to advance the formation of character through the influence of books. This is not easy, and we shall only succeed in some measure; we cannot hope to capture every child coming to us. At our meeting last month the Chairman stated it to be his opinion that education was for the few, not for the many, which is probably true, but the difficulty to me is—How many are the few and what is the ratio of the 'few' to population? Are we to be content when we have as many as we can comfortably manage, or when we have completed a round number such as a dozen, or a score, or even a hundred? On the contrary I venture to think we should be actuated with the idea that education is for the many, but that unfortunately comparatively few have the capacity to profit by it, and even that may be due to our ineffective machinery and methods.

I have, however, wandered farther than I intended from the point under consideration, which was present practice in attracting the adolescent. There are, of course, lectures to children arrived at the school-leaving age, on the use of libraries in adult life; without doubt these are very valuable. The lectures are best given in the library, and, if convenience permits, a tour of the library may be included. Perhaps it is better still if the children come in small parties of about a dozen, and have the whole thing demonstrated more or less individually. Another means is for senior classes to attend for silent reading lessons. The teacher notifies the librarian that books on a certain subject are required; these are got out and distributed to the children who read them with note-book and pencil at hand. Thus the resources of a library on a particular subject are demonstrated, the idea of research is given, and the library is associated with the thought of information. At Leamington, Mr. Owen addresses a personal letter to children about to leave school, inviting them to continue their use of the library and enclosing an application form for an adult ticket. He has also provided a kind of intermediate section

between the junior and adult libraries, consisting of books carefully selected as likely to appeal to youth and to lead on gradually to the main collection, which is a method distinctly worthy of more general consideration. Another arrangement exists whereby the headmaster notifies the librarian of "leavers" at each succeeding term, and the librarian secures an adult application form from the child at once so that there is no conscious surrendering of the school ticket at all. These are methods well known to you, and there are others of which you may be aware, less pronounced, but not without possibilities: what more can we do?

Before considering further methods I would like to examine a little more closely the difficulties of the problem with which we are confronted. I have already touched the fringe of them, but what we have to ponder is the mental attitude of the adolescent. If we provide certain machinery and say—"There you are, you have the necessary and natural steps—school tickets, lectures, books, in graduated standards, a definite invitation to the adult library"—then leave it at that, it looks to me rather as though we are falling into the danger of which Mr. Jast warned us recently, namely—introducing machinery because we love a machine. We have really not made much progress unless we have attempted to explore the mind of the youth we are trying to reach: this is no easy task, and continues to baffle even those who have studied the matter for years. What are the natural inclinations of a town boy or girl on leaving school and liberated to a considerable degree from any parental control which may—or may not—have been exercised? I have tried to cast my mind back to that period in my own life, and I must say that I cannot remember having any definite thoughts as to what my attitude to life was, or what I wanted, except perhaps that I desired to have a good time, and to escape irksome restraint. I do not remember any sense of responsibility in any way; I certainly did not read and took no thought of books; I had no notion as to what kind of a career I should like to follow. In a casual way I attended evening classes and acquired some knowledge of shorthand and book-keeping; somewhat accidentally I discovered that physical science held no charm for me. Perhaps it would not be unfair to say that my attitude to the world at large was one of irresponsible indifference, and I venture to believe that that may be true of the majority of lads of that age. Before I was 17 chance put a copy of James Grant's "Romance of War" in my way; then I awoke to the fascination of books, and in a few months had done something towards wiping out the arrears. We have to realise then that indifference and ignorance are two of the chief difficulties we have to combat: indifference to the claims of literature, ignorance as to the magic it holds.



If we have had opportunities with the school children we shall have met the difficulties in some measure, and the better organised our junior departments are the greater our success is likely to be, because we may quite well have been able to reveal to some extent the fascination of the book. For children, however, who escape contact with a junior library, or who receive no encouragement in reading, and reach adolescence without discovering the possibilities of books, it is hard to know what to suggest. As a result of the publication of the Board of Education Report on the Teaching of English it is possible that greater attention may be given to the subject in elementary schools with a view to implanting in children a real idea of the place of books in life, though I fear there will be difficulty in finding a sufficient number of inspired teachers to go round. In this no doubt lies one of the great secrets of the whole matter: the personal enthusiasm and knowledge which will provide the necessary inspiration. I remember discussing this subject with a Leeds City Councillor once, and on telling him that I had no interest in books when I was young, he said, "Did you ever have anyone who tried to show you what literature meant?" Well, I had not; we learned poetry by the yard at school: I cordially hated it; but no one, so far as I remember, took any pains to reveal its inherent beauties or to foster a love for literature. Personally I feel certain that the most fortunate thing that can happen to adolescents is to come under the influence of a man or woman of strong character and high purpose. This may be forthcoming in the home circle, of course, but is rare, I think, even though either parent may be able to exercise such influence over other young people. At the present stage of its existence, however, the public library manifestly cannot be expected to provide "inspirers," even though the trained children's librarian may achieve a good deal in that direction. Moreover, we have to bear in mind that the young person most in need of such inspiration is the one least likely to be found in a public library, except for "a lark."

So it seems that we must rely to a considerable extent on our powers of attraction. The Editor of the "Library World" recently suggested that something of a "club-like" nature was desirable, where a certain degree of freedom and comfort could be allowed. It may be so, though I confess myself rather sceptical. Clubs of all kinds for adolescent boys and girls already exist with varying results, more negative than positive, I fear, their success almost wholly depending upon the personality of the leader, thus bringing us back to the "inspirer" I have just referred to. In my estimation our best policy is to develop and perfect the existing machinery: organised junior departments,

co-operation with schools and clubs, lectures on the use of libraries and promotion of adolescent sections in the libraries. By such means we may be able to go a little way along the road towards making the path of virtue easier for each succeeding generation of youth. As a mark at which to aim I would like it to become possible for every young man and woman to be brought to realise what was so well-expressed recently by that outstanding journalist and critic—Mr. James Douglas—"There is a soul of good in man that sickens when he sins, for sin wounds it so that it cannot soar into happiness on the wings of conscience. He pays dearly for every base pleasure. Nobleness increases his capacity for enjoyment; ignobleness diminishes and in the end destroys it. The punishment of evil is as great as the reward of goodness. There is no escape from this law. It is as immutable as the law of gravitation. Goodness makes life lovelier, and badness makes it uglier. The choice either saddens or gladdens the chooser. It is the choice that is character, and character is fate. Choose the good and your power of life will grow. Choose the bad, and it will atrophy. Sin is boredom; goodness is gladness." We *can* do something towards this; let us not fail to try.

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### OUR READERS AND THEIR READING: SOME OBSERVATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS.

By W. H. PARKER (concluded from page 195).

*To sum up.* Perhaps the most successful way to get readers, to keep them and interest them day by day and year by year is the disinterested enthusiasm and ever-willing assistance of the Staff towards their clients. Much depends upon the manner of offering or rendering help to our readers, many of whom are quite incapable of stating concisely or clearly what they require. Those who come to us seeking the bread of knowledge must not be sent away with the stone of disappointment. Gratitude we must not expect; nor must we be discouraged at want of appreciation of our efforts, but ever bear in mind this little story. A Chinese student, discouraged by repeated failures, took courage and worked with renewed vigour because he saw a poor woman rubbing a thick iron bar on a stone in order to reduce it to a needle!

We must remember that the blackest soils nourish the fairest flowers! Nor must we forget that many people's heads resemble the schoolboy's definition of a vacuum: "An empty space filled with nothing."

Co-operation between borrowers and staff should be close enough for readers to have no hesitation in saying what books they want to read; that is the one and only means by which the wants of all classes of readers can be gauged and satisfied.

A great librarian has said: "A library requires buildings, books and brains." Had he only added "a cheerful giving of one's best," the saying would have been complete.

Carlyle, in his striking panegyric on Labour, says: : "Two men I honour, and no third. First, the toil-worn craftsman that with earth-made implement laboriously conquers the earth and makes her man's. . . . Thou toilest for the altogether indispensable bread. A second man I honour, and still more highly, him who is seen toiling for the spiritually indispensable, not daily bread, but the bread of life. These two, in all their degrees, I honour; all else is chaff and dust, which let the wind blow whither it listeth."

May not we, all who are connected with libraries, from the Chief Librarian to the youngest Junior Assistant, be allowed to rank amongst Carlyle's noble army of workers who are toiling for the spiritually indispensable?

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## THE DIVISIONS.

### MIDLAND DIVISION.

A meeting of the Midland Division was held in Wolverhampton on the 23rd November, when thirty-five members were present.

The party assembled at the Library at 2.30, and was joined by several members of the Council and representatives of civic activities. The afternoon was spent in visiting the boot and shoe factory of Messrs. James Baker & Sons, Ltd., where the party was received by Mr. R. Butler, the Secretary to the Company. Here the members divided into parties under specially appointed guides. The various stages of boot and shoe production proved to be of fascinating interest, and the visit was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Tea was kindly provided for the party at Messrs. Reynolds' Café by Mr. Councillor F. R. W. Hayward, Chairman of the Libraries Committee.

The evening meeting was held in the Children's Library, first under the Chairmanship of Mr. Councillor Hayward, then of His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Councillor Frost), and later under our own Chairman.

His Worship the Mayor and Councillor Hayward extended a very cordial welcome to the Division, and expressed a wish that a further visit should be paid at an early date, but during the summer months, when some of the many places of historic and literary interest could be seen to advantage.

The Rev. Dr. E. W. Winstanley, M.A., delivered an address on "Life and Literature." Dr. Winstanley described literature as a mirror of life, as in all literature there were some reflections to be found of the conditions of the times,

and of the minds of the contemporaries of the writers. After a reference to some phases of modern prose and poetry, Dr. Winstanley emphasised the value of literature as a contributory factor to the enrichment and development of personality. He appealed to librarians to cultivate the taste for the finest literature, in order that they might elevate the ideals of those who came to them for service. He considered librarians possessed a three-fold privilege—which was also a responsibility—firstly, of encouraging others to read; secondly, of guiding others in their choice of literature; and thirdly, of infecting others with the joy of reading.

Mr. W. T. Beeston, F.L.A., followed with a paper "The place of the public library in the social life of a town." Mr. Beeston dealt with the necessity of the public library being allied to all social movements in the town, and urged particularly a close co-operation between the libraries and the schools. It was thought possible that the growth and power of a library could be augmented considerably by a judicious system of advertising.

His Worship the Mayor, Councillor Cooper, Mr. Woodbine and others, contributed to the discussion.

Votes of thanks and appreciation were accorded to all concerned for their respective contributions to a highly successful meeting.

The Divisional Chairman occupied the Chair while the formal business of the Division was transacted. The minutes of the last meeting were read, confirmed, and signed. Four nominations were submitted for memberships and the applicants duly elected. The Chairman expressed his thanks on his appointment and this concluded the meeting.

#### SCOTTISH LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

Following on the success of the week's Course of Lectures on Library Practice delivered in Glasgow last October, and to meet numerous requests for the provision of similar facilities this year, the Council of the Scottish Library Association have decided to arrange a further series of lectures and demonstrations.

The course, which will be of one week's duration, is to be held in Glasgow, and the provisional date is the week commencing 17th September. Detailed particulars of the course will be announced later, and inquiries should be addressed to Mr. Edgar H. Parsons, Stirling's Library, Miller Street, Glasgow.

#### YORKSHIRE DIVISION. SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

The retiring Committee have pleasure in presenting the sixteenth annual report of the activities of the Division during the twelve months ended December 31st, 1922. In submitting this for your approval they feel confident that the progress of the Division, the standard of addresses delivered, and the educational features provided during the year under review are such as to merit your hearty endorsement.

*Membership.*—On January 1st, 1922, the number of names on the Divisional roll was 90, including five Honorary Fellows. During the year 12 new members were elected, and 10 members resigned, being a net gain of two. The membership now comprises the following:—Honorary Fellows, 5; Members, 80; Associates, 7.

Of the resignations received, two were from members of your Committee, namely, Mr. F. T. Sleight (formerly of Hull), consequent upon his promotion to the Deputy Chief Librarianship of Rochdale, and Miss A. E. Newsome (formerly of Batley), who left the profession to enter the Wesley Deaconess College, Ilkley.

*Meetings.*—The Annual Meeting took place at Bradford, on January 25th, when members were entertained by the Public Libraries Staff. The Business Meeting was held in the afternoon, and after tea, elocutionary, musical, and vocal items were contributed. These were followed by a whist drive, which concluded the programme. On March 29th the Inaugural Meeting was held in Ossett Town Hall. A conference on "Library Development under the Public Libraries Act, 1919," was opened by the Honorary Secretary at the afternoon session, and in the evening a paper, prepared by Mr. R. W. Parsons (Bradford), on the "Value of a Knowledge of Classification in General Education," was read. The next meeting was at Harrogate on June 29th, when a paper on the "Uses of Indexes in Research" was given by Miss E. F. Wragg (Sheffield). An orchestral concert in the evening was enjoyed by all. The Annual Ramble, on July 26th, was to Shibden Hall and Coley Church. September 27th saw the Division meeting at Ilkley, where, in the afternoon, a feast of antiquarian lore was provided for members who attended. Mr. E. Sydney (Leeds) delivered an address on "John Galsworthy, Novelist," in the evening. The closing meeting was at Heckmondwike, on November 8th. The programme included two papers, one on the "Relations between Borrowers and Staff," by Mr. A. Finney (York), and the other entitled "Poetry: an appreciation," by Miss M. V. Walker (Huddersfield). To the aforementioned ladies and gentlemen your Committee tender their grateful thanks for their thought-provoking contributions to the Division's educational programme.

*Officers and Committee.*—Under this heading the first event of the year to be recorded is the resignation of Mr. R. W. Parsons, as Honorary Secretary. Your Committee realise that much of the post-war success of the Division is due to the enthusiasm displayed by Mr. Parsons while occupying the office mentioned; and it is their desire to here place on record their appreciation of all he has done to extend the influence of the Association over such a wide and important library area such as this Division covers. Mr. W. Robertshaw (Bradford) was elected to the office. All other officers were re-elected. In the room of Mr. Sleight, Mr. Allison (Hull) was elected to a seat on the Committee. The place vacated by Miss Newsome was not filled. With this report the President (Mr. J. A. Butterfield) relinquishes the position he has occupied for two years. Mr. Butterfield's regularity and interest have been inspiring, and the ability with which he has presided over the meetings is well worthy of emulation by younger members. It is gratifying to know we are assured of his help and sympathy as a Vice-President for two years. In Mr. H. Goulden (Huddersfield) we shall have a capable President, and one who has the welfare of our Association at heart.

*Finance.*—The Honorary Treasurer will shortly submit the Financial Statement for your approval. Briefly, the income was £36 4s. 6d., and the expenditure £27 5s., leaving a balance in hand, on September 30th, of £8 19s. 6d.

*Acknowledgments.*—Your Committee acknowledge with thanks the assistance rendered by the following ladies and gentlemen:—Misses Willey, Orford and Milner (Bradford), Mr. G. W. Strother (Leeds), Mr. A. Riley (Bradford), Mr. E. Lucas (Secretary of Education, Ossett), Mr. G. W. Byers, F.L.A. (Harrogate), Mr. J. E. Wilshire (Manager, Royal Hall, Harrogate), Mr. John

Lister, M.A. (Shibden Hall), Rev. Dr. G. T. Jowett, M.A. (Coley), Mr. H. J. M. Maltby (Bradford), Mr. W. Graham, F.L.A. (Ilkley), Mr. H. B. McCall, F.S.A. (Ilkley), and Mr. T. W. Thompson, F.L.A. (Heckmondwike). Your Committee also desire to tender their warm acknowledgments to the Library Committees who have so kindly received us; and to the Press, which has, by lengthy reports of our proceedings, widened the sphere of influence, and aided the educational aims of our Association, and of public libraries.

**Objects and Policy.**—The objects of the Division are to promote the professional, educational, and social interests of members, by the reading of papers, by discussions, and by securing such privileges as would be difficult for non-members to enjoy. The policy and earnest endeavour of your Committee during the past year have been to visit as many new libraries as possible. New, in the sense that meetings have not previously been held in them, by this Association. Your Committee are happy to report that highly successful meetings were held at Ossett, Ilkley, and Heckmondwike, towns hitherto unvisited by the Division. Your Committee feel that much good will result from our conferences at Ossett and Heckmondwike.

**Reconstruction Proposals.**—Your Committee, after seriously considering the proposals of the Reconstruction Committee of the A.A.L., decided to send a delegate to the conference held in London on May 10th last. The Honorary Treasurer (Mr. W. Procter) represented the Division, and on his return kindly drew up a report of the proceedings. In his report the delegate called attention to the fact that the whole of the deliberations were carried on in an atmosphere of goodwill, and the opportunity for an all-round interchange of opinions on general matters affecting the Association was, undoubtedly, one mutually advantageous. The report was presented and approved of at the Harrogate meeting; and a resolution of thanks to Mr. Procter passed unanimously.

**General.**—A number of events remain to be noticed under this heading. A certificate-presentation ceremony was held during the meeting at Ossett, and in the unavoidable absence of His Worship the Mayor, the President performed the pleasing function. An announcement in the pages of the *Library Assistant* to the effect that each Division had had allotted to it one page in each number was readily taken advantage of, and your Committee would here acknowledge the generous treatment of the Editor in this direction. Your Committee believe that no other Division has availed itself of this facility to the same extent that the Yorkshire Division has. The writer of a paper (Miss Wragg) read at one of our meetings had the honour of having it selected for publication in the *Library Assistant*. The *Yorkshire Observer*, on September 28th, published two group photographs in connection with our Ilkley meeting. The Division is represented on the Council of the A.A.L. by Messrs. G. W. Strother, W. Procter, and R. W. Parsons. Unfortunately, travelling expenses are still high, otherwise your Committee would consider the widening, still further, of the Division's activities. For instance, it is interesting to note that within the Divisional area there are some nineteen towns, each possessing a library service, with populations ranging from 7,000 to 70,000, that have not yet been visited by the Association; and there are no less than twenty-two towns, each with a population of from 10,000 to 23,000, where the Library Acts are not in adoption. All things considered there is sufficient scope for propaganda, especially in these latter places, many of which are quite easily reached by the majority of the members.

Finally, your Committee take this opportunity of appealing for more members. The present membership roll of 92 has only once been exceeded, namely,

during the year 1914. Your Committee, therefore, for a few reasons, look forward to the return to the 1914 standard; and appeal for your assistance by securing new members, or by contributing papers at future meetings.

The foregoing, ladies and gentlemen, is the record of your Committee's efforts to maintain the healthy condition and vitality that have characterised the Yorkshire Division since its inception in 1906.

On behalf of the Committee,

J. ARTHUR BUTTERFIELD, *President*.

WILFRID ROBERTSHAW, *Hon. Secretary*.

#### APPOINTMENTS.

\* W. L. COLTMAN, formerly librarian of Southall-Norwood, to be a senior assistant, Battersea. Salary with bonus, £270. Basic salary, £175.

\* MISS M. E. DAY, Warrington, to be a female assistant-in-charge, Islington. Salary, £170 (no bonus).

\* W. G. SANFORD, Fulham, to be senior assistant, Chiswick. Salary, with bonus, £212. Basic salary, £122 10s.

\* WILLIAM THREEFALL, Chiswick, to be chief assistant librarian, Stockport. Salary, £250 (no bonus).

\* Member, A.A.L.

#### NEW MEMBERS.

**Midland Division: Associates:** Miss G. A. Pearson (Warwickshire Rural Libraries); Misses W. I. Foster, F. M. Parr, and E. Wright (all of Birmingham).

**N.W. Division (Liverpool and District Branch):** Misses E. Clarkson and M. Murphy (Liverpool).

Miss L. B. Dibben (Ministry of Labour), W. J. Bishop (London Library), Jessie Fyfe (Deptford), G. Gray (Stepney), L. Ives (Entomological Society), A. R. Pike (Great Yarmouth), W. L. Colman (Battersea).

**Associates:** L. M. Harrod (Wimbledon), Miss R. Mason (St. Albans).

The subscription, if not already paid, should be forwarded to R. Cooper, Hon. Treasurer, 265, Lavender Hill, S.W.11.

#### WEDDING.

**RYDE—LUCAS.**—On 18th January, at Godstone, Surrey, Kenneth A. Ryde, M.C., of the Croydon Public Libraries, was married to Mabel K. Lucas. We wish the couple a long and happy married life.

## UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

### SCHOOL OF LIBRARIANSHIP.

An Entrance Exhibition, of the value of £40 a year for two years, may be awarded to a student entering the School of Librarianship in October, 1923. Application must be made on or before 30th May, 1923.

Full particulars may be obtained on application to the undersigned.

WALTER W. SETON, *Secretary*,  
University College, London (Gower Street, W.C.1.).

### BOROUGH OF BERMONDSEY.

The Bermondsey Borough Council invite applications for the position of Chief Librarian and Curator.

The salary will be at the rate of £500 per annum, rising by annual increments of £10 to £550 per annum (subject to deductions under the Council's Superannuation Act), with apartments, fuel and lighting valued for superannuation purposes at £80 per annum. He will have to pass satisfactorily a medical examination, and belong to a Trade Union. The duties of the office include the supervision and administration of the three Public Libraries and one small Museum in the borough. The person appointed will be required to devote the whole of his time to the duties of the office and will be responsible to the Libraries Committee and Council for the work of the Department as a whole, and must attend at and report to Committee and Council meetings. Applications (on forms to be obtained from the undersigned) endorsed "Chief Librarian and Curator," accompanied by copies of not more than three recent testimonials, must be delivered not later than noon on February 5th, 1923. Canvassing either directly or indirectly will disqualify.

FREDK. RYALL,  
Town Hall, Bermondsey. *Town Clerk.*  
18/1/23.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF *The Library Assistant*.

CENTRAL LIBRARY,  
TOWN HALL, CROYDON.

1st February, 1923.

DEAR SIR,—At the request of the Library Association Council I am arranging an exhibition of Library Technique for the French Congress of Librarians and Book Lovers. After some thought I have concluded that the publications, catalogues, forms and printed documents generally of a select number of Libraries will exhibit most satisfactorily special British methods.

Can any of your readers co-operate with me by sending any such material? Pictures, photographs, etc., of buildings, rooms or processes would be acceptable.

It might be as well if the matter sent were such as can be spared, as it could be afterwards handed to a public library in Paris and be of permanent interest to French Library Students.

Believe me,  
Yours sincerely,  
W. C. BERWICK SAYERS.